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An interesting new genus of chrysomelid beetle from Sarawak,
Malaysia
(*Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae*)

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ABSTRACT. *Sarawakiola*, n. gen., a new genus of chrysomelid beetle is described from Sarawak, Malaysia. The type species is *Sarawakiola ajaib*, n. sp.

Key words: Entomology, taxonomy, new genus, new species, *Coleoptera*, *Chrysomelidae*, *Galerucinae*, Malaysia, Sarawak.

INTRODUCTION

Among the galerucine beetles collected in Sarawak, Malaysia in 1995, I found very interesting specimens with unusual head structure, particularly the extremely large and excavated first antennal segment, resembling the human ear lobe. One of the functions of antennae is detecting sounds. A modified antennal segment is quite common in male galerucine beetles, but the modifications involve other segments. The first segment, being normally cylindrical, club-shaped, swollen or dilated at apex. Excavated segments are, for example, the third segment (e.g. *Taumacera tibialis* MOHAMEDSAID), third, fourth or fifth (e.g. *Aulacophora frontalis* BALY), eighth (e.g. *Cerophysa javanensis* MOHAMEDSAID), or the terminal segment (*Aulacophora luteicornis* (FABRICIUS)).

This interesting galerucine beetle from Sarawak represents a new genus, described below. Type specimens are deposited in the collection of the Centre for Insect Systematics, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Bangi (UKM).

***Sarawakiola* MOHAMEDSAID, new genus**

DESCRIPTION

Form elongate-oblong, parallel-sided. Vertical area of head with a very broad and deep transverse groove in front; frontal tubercles very large, strongly raised. Clypeus broadly convex, not triangularly raised. Maxillary palpi with penultimate segment swollen. Eyes moderately large, the interocular space twice as broad as the transverse diameter of each eye. Pronotum smooth, broader than long, transversely sulcate; anterior border unmarginated, lateral and posterior borders margined. Procoxal cavities open posteriorly. Elytra much broader than prothorax, pubescent. Apex of metatibiae without a single spine. First segment of metatarsus longer than the other segments combined. Tarsal claws appendiculate. In male, the first antennal segment extremely swollen and excavated, the vertical area of head deeply, transversely grooved and the apical sternite trilobed.

Type species. *Sarawakiola ajaib* MOHAMEDSAID, new species.

ETYMOLOGY

The new genus is named after the locality, Sarawak.

REMARKS

The genus *Xenoda* BALY (1877) closely resembles the new genus, but differs in having triangularly raised, carinate clypeus, elongate triangular frontal tubercles, broad, concave elytral epipleuron, and convex vertex, neither deeply, transversely grooved (in male), nor deeply depressed (in female). *Trichomimastra* WEISE (1922) also resembles the new genus, but differs in triangularly raised, carinate clypeus, convex vertex, neither deeply, transversely grooved (in male), nor deeply depressed (in female), and the first antennal segment cylindrical in both sexes.

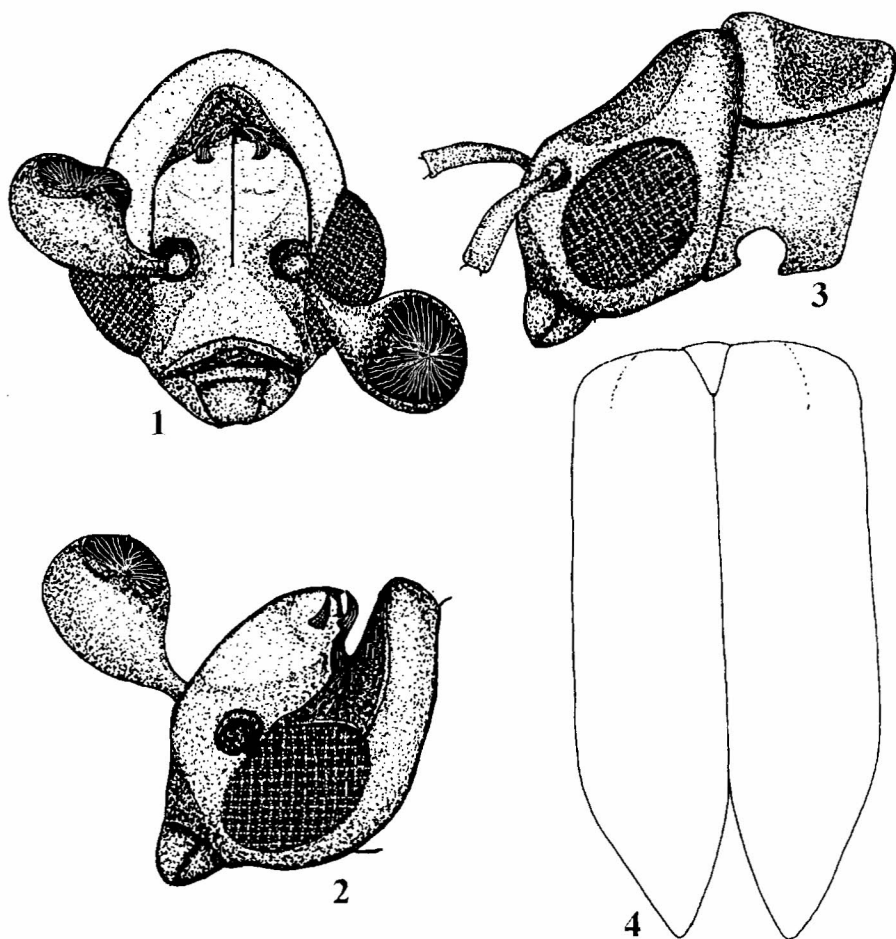
***Sarawakiola ajaib* MOHAMEDSAID, new species**

(Figs 1-4)

Yellowish.. Head across eyes broader than prothorax; vertex smooth, impunctate, with a broad and very deep transverse groove; frontal tubercles very large, smooth, with a pair of spine tuft with hairs near the posterior border; clypeus broadly convex, rugose, sparsely covered with hairs; labrum oblong; maxillary palpi, with penultimate segment dilated, covered with long hairs, the apical segment very small. Eyes oval, moderately large, with the interocular space twice as broad as the transverse diameter of each eye. Antennae very long, extended beyond the apex of elytra, slightly dark brown; segment 1 extremely large, broader than the transverse diameter of each eye, excavated, the cavity's rim with a row of long hairs covering the excavation; segment 2 small, as broad as long; segments 3-11, cylindrical, each subequal in length, densely covered with short hairs; segment 11 pointed at apex.

Pronotum transverse, twice as broad as long, with sides converging towards base; anterior border broadly concave, posterior border broadly rounded; disc transversely sulcate, smooth, impunctate; angles tuberculate, with seta-bearing pore.

Scutellum triangular, as broad as long, shiny.



1-4. *Sarawakiola ajaib* n. sp.: 1-3 - head: 1-2 - male: 1 - anterior, 2 - lateral, 3 - female, lateral; 4 - elytral outline

Elytra feebly convex, densely covered with hairs, finely rugose, parallel-sided up to the apical one-fourth, the apical part of the lateral margins and apical part of sutural margins folded together forming pointed elytra; epipleuron very narrowly towards apex. Legs long, slender; first segment of protarsus shorter than the other segments combined; first segment of mesotarsus shorter than the other segments

combined; first segment of metatarsus longer than the other segments combined. Tarsal claws appendiculate. Apical sternite trilobed. Pygidium rounded at apex. Length 5.0-5.5 mm, width 2.3-2.4 mm.

Female. Head with vertical area deeply depressed. First antennal segment cylindrical. Apical sternite entire. Length 5.5-6.0 mm, width 2.5 mm.

TYPES

HOLOTYPE. Male. MALAYSIA, Sarawak, Bario, Kg. Pa'ukat (Hutan Kerangas), 11 .iv. 1995, ISMAIL & RUSLAN.

PARATYPES. Same data as Holotype, 2 males and 2 females.

ETYMOLOGY

The name of the new species, *ajaib*, is derived from the Malay word meaning something strange, with reference to the extremely large first antennal segment and the vertex with a broad and very deep transverse groove.

REMARKS

Xenoda pallida JACOBY resembles the new species, but differs in triangularly raised, carinate clypeus, elongate triangular frontal tubercles, broad, concave elytral epipleuron, and the male with the vertical area of head convex, smooth, without a transverse groove in front, the first antennal segment cylindrical and the third to eighth segments dilated.

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